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Fiesta time
REVELLERS and shoppers alike celebrated the last weekend of the summer holidays with a huge street party in central Banbury. Pages 4 & 5

Autistic teenage boy humiliated by three young thugs

OUTRAGE OVER PARK ASSAULT

Tom Williams
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SHOCKED residents have vented their anger and disbelief after a young autistic boy was urinated on in a Banbury park.

The 17-year-old victim, who has not been named, was on his scooter in Hill View Park, Banbury, when three younger boys threw food and drink at him and one urinated on him.

Police said that the incident had left the teenager feeling 'very distressed' and that they are treating the incident 'extremely seriously'.

Parents of other autistic children reacted to the news with shock and fear that similar things could happen to their own children.

Rebecca Helen Eldridge took to Facebook to say: "This is why I'm so scared as a mother to two autistic boys, when I'm not with them who will step up for them if this sort of thing happens?

"I know they need to spread their wings and be independent I just hope that someone is kind enough to help them if they needed it."

In another comment, Natalie Beechey said that it would be particularly difficult for an autistic child to make sense of what had happened.

She added: "It's also heart-breaking for the parents. I know this as I have been through similar with my son. It makes me so angry."

The three attackers are believed to be between 13 and 16.

They approached the victim and started insulting him before throwing food and a can of drink, which hit him on the head, police said.

One of the boys then climbed on a climbing frame above him and deliberately urinated on his scooter and on his leg.

Police are appealing for any witnesses to the incident, which happened on Saturday August 26 between midday and 3pm, to come forward with information which may help them find the three suspects.

The first boy, who urinated on the victim, is the tallest of the three, has short hair, and was wearing a green top and brown trousers.

The second has short blond hair, was wearing glasses and three-quarter length Batman trousers and a top which had an outline of a face on it.

The third suspect was wearing a white top and three-quarter length blue trousers.

Investigating officer PC Sean Allwood, based at Banbury police station, said: "Although the victim was unhurt, this incident was very distressing for him and is being treated extremely seriously.

"I would like to speak to anyone who witnessed the incident or who recognises the description of the offenders."

Alongside an outpouring of anger at the attack, messages of support towards the teenager have been made to the Banbury Cake.

Clair Lou Moss said that "Living with autism is an everyday battle and this will just add to the child's daily struggle. Sending good thoughts to you young man."

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Morrisons gets new look

Tom Williams
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A NEW-LOOK supermarket celebrated its reopening by raising more than £1,000 for charity.

Morrisons in Swan Close Road, Banbury, has been given its first major overhaul for 19 years and has now reopened with a new-look cafe.

The store will also be selling a bigger collection of clothing, including a range for adults for the first time, and new pancake and pizzas stations have been installed.

Doors have also been put on all the fridges to make the store 60 per cent more energy efficient.

Morrisons remained open during the work, most of which took place at night.

Banbury town mayor Colin Clarke took part in a ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially reopen the store.

Kids favourites Chase from TV series *Paw Patrol* and *Peppa Pig*, and the Disney princess Belle and Rapunzel all made special appearances.

There were also charity games taking place for adults and children, including face painting and a tea cup fair ride, and army vehicles were on display for children to sit in.

The successful weekend raised £1,139 for the branch's charity of the year Clic Sargent, a cancer charity that looks after children and young people with the disease.

Morrisons foundation will match the money raised, taking the final total being donated to the charity to £2,278.

Store manager Simon Jasper said he was thrilled with the changes to the store.

He said: "It is a much nicer environment for customers. They think it is fabulous and they love what we've done.

"All our staff and customers are part of the local community and we try to be involved as much as we can.

"We run events throughout the year to raise money for national and local charities.

"It's always a great day and is nice for all our staff who can see the benefits when they are out and about in the area."

Mayor of Banbury Colin Clarke with store manager Simon Jasper and community champion Emma Boisselle

Staff with community champion Emma Boisselle

Voters' details

MORE than 65,000 voters will be asked to update their electoral details in Cherwell.

Forms have been sent out to 65,226 homes by Cherwell District Council to ensure all eligible voters' details are up to date.

Returning officer Yvonne Rees said: "Updating your electoral register details can be done in a matter of minutes, probably the time it would take you to make a cup of tea. Not only does it mean you will be eligible to vote but also helps with your credit rating."

For more contact elections@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk

Charity fete

HUNDREDS are expected at a fete to raise awareness of what a mental health charity does across Oxfordshire.

Banbury Deputy Mayor Shaida Hussain will attend the event at Restore's new sensory garden at The Orchard on Calthorpe Street.

The charity runs six recovery groups around Oxfordshire.

The fete will be held by the North Oxfordshire Recovery Group on September 16 from 11am until 6pm.

New 111 service

PATIENTS in Oxfordshire will have improved access to urgent care after a new phone service was launched yesterday.

The new Thames Valley IUC 111 service will help people access a range of services through a single call, including dental, pharmacy and mental health services.

It is being provided by South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS).

BanburyCake

HELP TAYLOR WIMPEY REWARD LOCAL GOOD CAUSES WITH COMMUNITY CHEST JACKPOT

Local housebuilder Taylor Wimpey Oxfordshire is urging Banbury Cake readers to nominate worthy causes in the community that could benefit from a £500 award.

Under the developer's 'Community Chest' initiative, the £500 prize fund is being made available to a local charitable organisation or community group which is deemed most deserving of the donation.

The money is being provided in association with the housebuilder's Longford Park development in Banbury.

To put forward a good cause for the Community Chest funding, nominators should send an email to promotions@nqo.com with 'Community Chest nomination' in the subject line.

Entries should include the name and telephone number of the person making the nomination, the name and details of the organisation being nominated and a short explanation of why it deserves the £500 prize.

People have until Friday 15 September 2017 to put forward their nominations and Banbury Cake readers will then get the chance to vote for their favourite good cause.

There's a selection of 3 & 4 bedroom properties available at Taylor Wimpey's Longford Park, and prospective home-buyers can gather further information by visiting the Sales Centre located off Oxford Road, Banbury, and open daily between 10am and 5pm (Mondays 1pm to 5pm).

Taylor Wimpey | Oxfordshire

Information about Taylor Wimpey developments across the region is available at www.taylorwimpey.co.uk.

I didn't get the chance to say goodbye to my father

Fundraiser opens up about his dad's sudden death from heart attack

Tom Williams
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A RUNNER whose father died of a cardiac arrest when he was a teenager is raising money to help stop other families being 'torn apart'.

David Murray-Hundley, a technology entrepreneur, was just 16 when his father, Ivor, died unexpectedly aged 41.

Over a quarter of a century later the Banbury resident says that he is still left with 'more questions than answers' over his dad's death.

Describing the moment he found out about the tragedy, the 43-year-old, who was away on a school trip at the time, said: "I was woken by the head teacher to be told that my dad had passed away.

"I didn't get the chance to say goodbye – one minute he was here, the next minute he was no longer with us.

"We were all completely devastated but the grieving process was made even harder by the fact that doctors never managed to determine what exactly happened.

"Not a day goes by when I don't think about him. He didn't get a chance to see me graduate, get married or meet his grandchildren."

On Sunday October 1, Mr Murray-Hundley will join 4,500 runners to complete a run around Blenheim Palace to raise money for the British Heart Foundation's life saving research.

Around 21,000 people lose their lives to heart and circulatory disease each year in the South East and around 930,000 people currently live with its burden.

There are around 30,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests in the UK each year and the overall survival rate is less than 1 in 10.

Last year's Blenheim Palace event, which features a half marathon, a 10k course and a family-friendly 2k fun-run, raised around £200,000 in the fight against heart disease.

Money raised this year will help the BHF fulfil its ambition to fund half a billion pounds of life saving heart research by 2020.

Mr Murray-Hundley said: "I'm taking on the Blenheim Palace 10km course because I would never want any other family to be torn apart in the tragic way that mine has."

To register for the run see bhf.org.uk/Blenheim or contact the events team at events@bhf.org.uk or 0845 130 8663.

David Murray-Hundley will be running a 10km race around Blenheim Palace in memory of his father, who suffered a fatal cardiac arrest

Council urged to ask government for more cash to repair potholes

THE county council will debate whether to ask central government for more cash to repair the potholes on Oxfordshire's roads.

Councillor Mark Cherry says it is unacceptable key repairs across the county are left unfunded simply because Oxfordshire County Council has too little cash to pay for them.

Next week he will formally request that council leader Ian Hudspeth asks the Department of Transport for more funding to keep the county's roads in tip-top shape.

The Banbury Ruscote representative said: "I have got a lot of issues with the roads. In the division I represent I've noticed the roads have deteriorated since I was elected as a county councillor in 2013.

"The disparity of what's needed to get them into shape and the funding the County Council gets after the cuts over the years is not sustainable.."

The local authority has shelled out nearly £42,000 in less than two years to pay drivers who had their cars damaged by driving into potholes. It had shelled out £25,653 in 2016 and by August had paid out £16,043 to annoyed drivers.

In one case, it paid £1,827.91 to a motorist whose vehicle was badly damaged on the B4526 in South Oxfordshire.

But the Department for Transport has already said it has spent millions giving councils money to make sure their roads are in a good state – including £2.3m this year to patch up potholes.

My Cherry added: "Every county councillor sees them, especially those in rural areas – they're probably worse there.

"I can remember when I was a pupil at William Morris School, the roads were given a couple of top coats every couple of years. It doesn't work like that now."

Other large sums paid out by the authority to drivers in 2016 included £1,739 and £1,725 after damage was caused on South Oxfordshire roads.

The council will vote on the motion at a meeting at County Hall in Oxford next Tuesday.

No jail time for drug addict who burgled cancer sufferer's home

A DRUG addict tricked a 64-year old man into leaving his home before breaking in and ransacking the house, making off with sentimental items – one of which was a gift from his late wife.

Tommy Butler, of no fixed abode, had been a family friend of his victim, Mr Connor, at the time of the burglary on September 14 last year and had previously carried out domestic work in the garden for him.

At his sentencing at Oxford Crown Court on Wednesday last week the court heard how the 24-year-old had come to the St Leonard's Close, Banbury, address, to demand cash from the man in order to buy drugs.

When Mr Connor told him he had no money to give him Butler became 'insistent' the court heard, and he was taken to a nearby cash machine where it was shown that Mr Connor had just £6.99 in his bank account.

On returning to the house, undeterred and spotting an opened kitchen window, Butler then lured his victim away from the property, claiming the police wanted to speak to him at a nearby shop to answer assault charges.

When Mr Connor left to answer the fictional charges, Butler broke in through the window and ransacked the property, stealing two wallets containing cash and identification cards.

The wallets were of particular sentimental value to Mr Connor, who suffers from cancer, the court heard, one of which was a gift from his late wife.

In mitigation, Ronan McCann said his client had long been addicted to class A drugs, spending some £600 per day on occasion, which had fuelled his behaviour on the day of the burglary.

He said: "He had a particularly haphazard and difficult upbringing. He has been perennially estranged from both his mother and father.

"The crux of the offence was serious drug use. He is an individual who is indeed remorseful in his actions."

In sentencing, Recorder Anna Laney said: "You are a relatively young man and from the age of 13 years you have been in the grip of a serious drug addiction.

"This was an offence that you committed while you were in the grip of that addiction."

Ultimately, Butler was given a 27-week jail term, suspended for two years. He was also made subject to a community order including a drug rehabilitation requirement for 12 months.

He must also carry out a rehabilitation activity requirement for 20 days as well as 100 hours of unpaid work in the next 12 months.

He is also banned from entering St Leonard's Close or contacting the victim for the next three years.

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Street party marks

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REVELLERS and shoppers alike celebrated the last weekend of the summer holidays with a huge street party in central Banbury.

The old town area came alive with sounds and colour as street performers, steel drum bands and dancers entertained the crowds for the summer fiesta and street organ festival.

Shops, pubs and restaurants in Parson's Street, Church Lane, Church Walk, White Lion Walk and Market Place hosted the event as part of a bid to get more people using the amenities in the area. Organisers hoped to highlight the smaller, individual traders in the old streets who offer 'a more personal service.'

The mayor of Banbury Colin Clarke said that it had reminded him of how busy the town centre used to be.

Mr Clarke commented: "I remember when Parson's Street, High Street, Market Place and Church Lane were the town's main shopping areas. That was before supermarkets, shopping centres and out-of-town retail parks.

"I hope some of the people who perhaps 'discovered' the old town at the fiesta will continue to use the shops, pubs and restaurants on a regular basis."

The town's historic streets and lanes were teeming with people enjoying face painting, balloon modelling, mask-making and children's workshops.

The free event also saw giveaways, a fancy dress competition and a variety of stalls selling food and drink.

Street organists travelled from around the country to perform and help to collect money for the mayor's fund which will be divided between charities in Banbury at the end of the mayoral year.

Mr Clarke said: "I'd like to thank the street organists who came from far and wide to raise money for local charities.

"They, too, are a reminder of years gone by."

The event was organised by Banbury Town Council and the Old Town Association, a group of independent traders who work together to promote local shops.

It was sponsored by Cherwell District Council, Castle Quay and Your Letterbox magazine.

Street entertainers during the old town party

Mayor Colin Clarke samples a Thai lunch from the Siam House restaurant served by Sunan Charoenwit Worakit

The Kings Palace Steel Band were rocking in Parson's Street

Laura Walker with children Ilaria and Kit get a balloon from Ken Gillett of Sweet Celebrations in Church Lane

The Banbury Presents team provided music and colour

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the end of summer holidays

Amelia, Aleesha and Grace Gray get free whistles from Banbury Town Council's gazebo

Organ grinders Robert and Sylvia Huciet-Brown receive a donation

Dorothy Wild (left) and Julie and Joshua Hodge make a guitar at Carol Wild's children's workshop

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New jigsaw club is launched in town to help combat dementia

'Increase in brain activity can cut risk of Alzheimer's'

Tom Williams
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WITH new research finding the number of people with dementia could hit 131million by 2050, a new jigsaw club has launched in Banbury to help keep residents' minds active.

The club, Piece Together, is working with local care homes, retirement flats, hospices and drop-in centres.

Originally founded by Banbury resident Sue Riches, it now has around 50 members who meet once a month to chat and complete jigsaws which helps to both combat social isolation and engage people to use their brains.

A study in the Lancet journal recently found that an increase in cognitive activity can lead to a 33 per cent reduction in the risk of Alzheimer's disease.

Social isolation can also be a contributing factor, according to the same study.

Simon Alexander Ong, an expert in mindfullness and keeping the brain healthy, said:

"Academic researchers have shown that memory can be improved by 30-50 per cent when doing mental exercises.

"Getting immersed in 'thinking' activities such as completing jigsaw puzzles can have a significantly positive impact on our mental health.

"And by focusing on just a single task and being more aware of the present moment, it also acts as a way of being more mindful, something we could all benefit from."

The puzzle company Wentworth Wooden Puzzles appointed Sue Riches, *pictured right*, as their 'minister for jigsaws' earlier this year to encourage similar groups to start across the country.

The company has also donated five puzzles to the Piece Together group.

Ms Riches said: "We really appreciate the donation from Wentworth. Their quality wooden jigsaws with the unique whimsy pieces are such a treat to complete, I'm sure the club will be fighting over who gets to finish them first.

"Instead of reading a book in which you can forget the previous story, a puzzle is something that you can start and stop whenever you want. There's a calming influence that a jigsaw has on you, it focuses the mind and there is a great sense of satisfaction when you finish it."

Impeccably crafted thriller

WIND RIVER *(15, 107 mins)*
Thriller/Action/Romance. Jeremy Renner, Elizabeth Olsen, Graham Greene, Gil Birmingham, Kelsey Chow, Jon Bernthal, Julia Jones, Teo Briones, Martin Sensmeier. Director: Taylor Sheridan.

Justice is blind and frost-bitten in Wind River, an impeccably crafted thriller set on a snow-laden Indian reservation, where the murder of a teenager sends a chill through a community riven by bigotry and fear.

Taylor Sheridan, Oscar-nominated screenwriter of Hell Or High Water and Sicario, returns to the director's chair for a high-stakes game of cat and mouse in unforgiving terrain.

Working from his own lean script, he vividly brings to life clashes of culture and ideals, punctuated by pulse-quickening scenes of carnage that expose the ugly reality of race relations in present-day America.

As Sheridan makes uncomfortably clear at the end of his film, the Department of Justice does not collate statistics on the number of Native American women who vanish every year.

Horrors depicted on screen with cool, clinical detachment could be based on hundreds, perhaps thousands of unreported true stories.

The writer-director thaws out our emotional response to his material with powerhouse performances from Jeremy Renner and Elizabeth Olsen as lawmakers from different worlds, united in quivering indignation. Both actors rise magnificently to the challenge.

Cory Lambert (Renner) works as a tracker for the US Fish and Wildlife Service on the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming, where he hunts predators that threaten livestock.

During one sortie into the wilderness, Cory stumbles upon the frozen body of 18-year-old Natalie Hanson (Kelsey Chow).

She has been sexually assaulted and rookie FBI agent Jane Banner (Olsen) arrives soon after from the Las Vegas office to take charge of the investigation.

"How far do you think someone could run barefoot out here?" she asks, ill-prepared for sub-zero temperatures.

"How do you gauge someone's will to live, especially in these conditions?" responds Cory.

The lawmakers join forces with tribal police chief Ben (Graham Greene) to unmask the culprit and dole out justice on behalf of the victim's grief-stricken father (Gil Birmingham).

A haphazard array of evidence implicates Natalie's wastrel brother Chip (Martin Sensmeier) and her boyfriend Matt (Jon Bernthal).

Meanwhile, Cory is haunted by a tragedy closer to home and the devastating impact on his wife Wilma (Julia Jones) and young son, Casey (Teo Briones).

Wind River is a survival thriller of the fittest, photographed against breathtaking backdrops described by one wise character as "the land of You're On Your Own".

The central police investigation unfurls with quiet urgency, reflected in the slow-burning intensity of performances from a superb ensemble cast.

Violence is used sparingly in a serpentine narrative that stylishly knots together present and past, including two stylistic nods to The Silence Of The Lambs.

Thankfully, fava beans and Chianti are not on Sheridan's menu.

Instead, he serves up just desserts, ice cold.

RATING: 8/10

Hugh Dillon as Curtis, Elizabeth Olsen as Jane Banner and Graham Greene as Ben in Wind River

IT *(15, 135 mins)*

Stephen King's disturbing 1986 novel materialises on the big screen as a two-part film directed by Andy Muschietti. This opening salvo focuses exclusively on the stories of children whose lives are scarred by a malevolent presence called Pennywise (Bill Skarsgard).

The second instalment will flash forwards three decades to consider the impact of the adult characters, who survived their first brush with the diabolical clown.

In the summer of 1989, seven preteens growing up in Derry, Maine, come together as the Losers' Club in order to survive their shared suffering at the hands of local bullies, the Bowers Gang, led by the sadistic Henry Bowers (Nicholas Hamilton).

The leader of the Losers' Club, Bill Denbrough (Jaeden Lieberher), incurs some of the deepest scars: his younger brother Georgie (Jackson Robert Scott) is killed by Pennywise while playing in the street during a rain storm.

Bill vows revenge with the help of fellow misfits Ben (Jeremy Ray Taylor), Beverly (Sophia Lillis), Eddie (Jack Dylan Grazer), Mike (Chosen Jacobs), Richie (Finn Wolhard) and Stanley (Wyatt Oleff). However, Pennywise knows the children's darkest fears and preys upon their insecurities with lip-smacking glee.

Cake Bookworm

I Am, I Am, I Am: Seventeen Brushes With Death by Maggie O'Farrell is published in hardback by Tinder Press, priced £18.99 (ebook £9.49).

It is always a leap when a beloved fiction writer turns to memoir, a genre that can become sluggish with indulgent autobiographical asides and cloying sentiment. Fortunately, Maggie O'Farrell's I Am, I Am, I Am does not slide into these traps, instead, it's nimble, emotionally bruising and stunningly written.

Divided into 17 distinct moments from her life, scrambled out of chronological order, it explores the many terrifying junctures at which Maggie grappled with the fact she may not take another breath. There are instances many of us have experienced - sinking out of your depth while swimming in the ocean, toes stretching and failing to find sand; almost losing your balance as a lorry darts by, treacherously close; racing across a road as your parents scream at you to be careful, to not run off - and others so brutal and horrifying (an encounter with a murderer; a knife-point mugging; a debilitating childhood illness), you have to put the book down between paragraphs to rebalance, to breathe, to breathe for her.

When you discover that Maggie's daughter suffers from an immunological disorder and is prone to anaphylactic attacks leading to alarmingly frequent hospital visits, the strength, urgency and reasoning that underpins I Am, I Am, I Am becomes palpable. It's a beautiful, strangely reassuring read.

9/10

My Absolute Darling by Gabriel Tallent is published in hardback by Fourth Estate, priced £12.99 (ebook £7.99). Available now

When a book's blurb tells you Stephen King thinks it is a masterpiece, you prepare to be impressed. The horror doyen certainly knows good writing, but he is perhaps a touch generous in his praise for the debut novel from Gabriel Tallent. A native of north-west California, which, through intensely-drawn imagery becomes a character, Tallent brings us the story of Turtle Alveston.

Turtle - or 'kibble' to her charismatic but twisted survivalist father Martin - is a 14-year-old who spends most of her time cleaning guns and preparing for the apocalypse she believes will soon come. One day, she escapes Martin's control by embarking on a solo mission into the wilderness. There she meets Jacob, a lost boy of a similar age whose comfortable and cosseted life reveals to her an ordinary world she never knew existed. This new connection opens an irreparable rift in the love-hate relationship between Martin, one of the best painted characters in recent memory, and his 'absolute darling' of the title. The way Tallent unravels the tale that follows, of a rapid descent into mistrust and violence at their ramshackle house on a hill, is invigorating, paranoia-inducing and often dizzying in its beauty.

While his pacing creates a necessary sense of unease, Tallent is prone to rushing towards his set-pieces, of which many stack up across the 400 pages.

9/10

New waste fees spark fly-tipping fear

Andy Ffrench
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INCREASED charges to dump some waste at recycling centres could see 'lorry loads' of fly-tipped waste blight the countryside, it has been claimed.

On October 1, when Oxfordshire County Council begins a new contract with W&S Recycling, it will cost £1.50 to dispose of most non-household waste items – and up to £10 for some.

At the moment it is free to dispose the first three items of DIY waste at the county's seven tips and people can get rid of another 10 for £1 each in any four-week period.

The county council said the increased charges, which were backed by residents after a consultation aimed at staving off recycling centre closures, would not lead to an increase in fly-tipping.

But arable farmer Jeff Powell, who owns a farm in West Hagbourne, near Didcot, and is the chairman of the National Farmers' Union in Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire, said he was 'horrified' by the increase and called for the decision to be reversed.

He said: "This is guaranteed to cause an increase in fly-tipping and farmers' fields will be targeted because fly-tippers are less easily detected there.

"Farmers have already seen an increase in fly-tipping over the past five years and this is bound to make the situation worse.

"Every farmer I know in South Oxfordshire has experienced a problem - we have had lorryloads of tyres dumped, plasterboard and builders' waste.

"The penalties for fly-tipping are not high enough and I am astonished by this decision."

The 'superdump' at Redbridge Hollow, Oxford

The county council stressed that its existing scheme has been in place for 15 years and charges of £1 per item have not risen during this period.

It will still remain free to dispose of household waste.

Cowley county councillor John Sanders, who represents Labour, also said the increases should be scrapped because they would lead to more fly-tipping.

Mr Sanders added: "I think a significant minority will dump their DIY waste alongside the county's roads as a result of this increase and the cost of cleaning up the extra fly-tipped waste will fall on the district councils.

"You will get places where fly-tippers chuck waste out of the car window onto the side of the road and then that will become a spot where rubbish accumulates.

"Fly-tippers will find a quiet nook and before you know it it will be full of waste – tyres will now cost £5 each to dispose of and a piece of plasterboard will cost £10."

County council leader Ian Hudspeth said: "I don't think this increase will lead to more fly-tipping.

"If someone is spending thousands on renovating their bathroom and they dispose of a toilet, bath and basin that will cost them a total of £4.50.

"I don't think they are likely to break the law by fly-tipping and risk a £5,000 fine.

"Most people will think this service is good value and the new contract means all seven recycling centres are staying open."

In April an investigation was launched after more than 50 tyres were found dumped in a field near Banbury – it would cost £250 to dump that number under the new charges.

The illegal flytipping was reported to Cherwell District Council after 56 car tyres were found off the A422 Stratford Road near Wroxton.

Tyres had been thrown over a wall into a ditch, near a layby containing glass bottle banks close to Ironstone Lane.

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Oxfordshire Listings

Events

THURSDAY

Abingdon Museum Friends: St Helen's Church Centre, St Helen's Court, West St Helen Street, Abingdon. Talk by James Mather on 'Treasures Beneath Our Feet and the Watlington Hoard'. 7.30pm. Visitors £3. 01235 521369.

Alzheimer's Roadshow Bus: The Orchard Shopping Centre, 20 Station Road, Didcot. Free information and advice to anyone with queries about the condition, as well as helping to promote the benefits of an early diagnosis. 10am. Free. 01235 531989.

Dinosaur World: Banbury Museum, Spiceball Park Road, Banbury. Travel back in time to make your own dinosaur land, fossil collage, dinosaur animals, dinosaur mask and even a hatching dinosaur baby. 10.30am-12.30pm or 2-4pm. No need to book. £2 per child. 01295 753752.

The Hall in History: The Witney Blanket Hall, 100 High Street, Witney. A romp through the last 300 years, since Witney Blanket Hall was built in 1721 with Richard Martin. 7pm. £10. 01993 706408.

FRIDAY

Museum Book Group: Vale & Downland Museum, 19 Church Street, Wantage. 2pm. Free but asked to support the museum cafe. 01235 771447.

Women's Pamper Event: The Clifton Centre, Ashdene Road, Bicester. 6pm. £2 in advance, £3 on the door. 07917 453224.

SATURDAY

Autumn Flower and Vegetable Show: High Street Methodist Church, High Street, Witney. Witney Horticultural Society. See witneyhorticulturalsociety.com for details. Viewing from midday. 12pm. 50p for viewing. 01993 702444.

Banbury Mum2mum Market Nearly New Sales: Banbury Town Hall, Bridge Street, Banbury. 10.30am. £2.

Banbury's Aluminium Legacy: Banbury Museum, Spiceball Park Road, Banbury. With John Bridgeman CBE TD DL, a former CEO of British Alcan Aluminium plc and Director of Strategy for the Alcan Aluminium Group in Montreal. 2.30pm. £5. 01295 753752.

Bat Walk: Earth Trust Centre, Little Wittenham. A guided walk with bat detectors. 8.30pm. £6 adult £3 child. 01865 407792.

Cakes and Coffee: St Nicholas, Cross Tree Green, Islip. Cakes, coffee and tea for spectators watching the Tour of Britain. Ride and Stride cyclists welcome. 11.30am. £2-3. 01865 373972.

Hanborough Show: Pavilion Playing Fields, Roosevelt Road, Long Hanborough. Competition displays, Armaleggan Border Morris Dancers, Yarnton Band, fun dog show, craft and trade stalls plus refreshments including BBQ, bar and WI teas. 1.30pm. 01993 881058.

My Novel, What Next?: The Manor, Northampton Road, Weston-on-the-Green. Jan will take you through the process of writing a novel, from conception to publication. 10am. £30. 01869 350621.

Orchard Film Club: Harwell Village Hall, High Street, Harwell. Lion (PG). Bar opens at 7pm and during the interval. 7.30pm. £5. 01235 221052.

Paul Nash and the Wittenham Clumps – Walk and Talk: St Agatha's Church, The Square, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell. A special walk beginning with an illustrated talk. See nashclumps.org/news.html 10am. £15.

Walk (Fieldpaths): Duck Pond, Childrey. SU361874 5 miles. A hilly walk to Letcombe Regis and Letcombe Bassett. Bring refreshments for en route break. Dogs on leads. 10am. 01367 718791.

Wallingford Allotment and Garden Society Show: Centre 70, Off Goldsmith's Lane near the Kinecroft, Wallingford. With the Roke and Benson brass band. 2pm. Free. 01491 836527.

Windrush Bike Project at the Tour of Britain: Field, Playing Close, Charlbury. Watch the Tour of Britain cycle through Charlbury with stall for a free bike check, map, look at different bikes and the bubble bike. 10.30am. Free.

Wootton Flower Show: Wootton Memorial Playing Field, Castle Road, Wootton by Woodstock. Traditional exhibits and judging, swing boats, live music, cream teas, local history stall, bar and family games. 2pm. £2 adults, children free. 07412 412457.

SUNDAY

10K Run: Earth Trust Centre, Little Wittenham. Unique cross-country run that meanders through wildflower meadows, woodland, farmland, along the Thames and ends with a challenging hike up the Wittenham Clumps. Chip-timed race. Advance entry: £15 adult, £12 child (aged 14-17). On the day: £18 adult, £15 child (aged 14-17). 11am. 01865 407792.

Autumn Herbal Medicine & Foraging Workshop: Braziers Park, Ipsden. An early autumn excursion for fruits and roots as the cycle of the year turns. Led by qualified medicinal herbalist Rasheeqa Ahmad. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. 10am. £60. 01491 680221.

Beyond Exile – cross cultural understanding as a path to safe refuge: The Abbey, The Green, Sutton Courtenay. Sushila Dhall manages the therapeutic services at Refugee Resource in Oxford where for 13 years she has worked with refugees and asylum seekers suffering from trauma, displacement and complex grief. Her talk draws on this experience. Attendance by donation, proceeds to be shared by the Abbey and Refugee Resource. Email admin@theabbey.uk.com 7pm. 01235 847401.

Children's Fun Run: Earth Trust Centre, Little Wittenham. A 1km race around the Wittenham Clumps for children. 10am. £2 suggested donation per child. 01865 407792.

Craft Fair: Kings Sutton Millennium Hall, Astrop Road, Banbury. Handmade crafts and gifts. Refreshments available. 11am. £1. 01295 711752.

National Garden Scheme: Broughton Grange, Wykham Lane, Broughton. An impressive 25 acres of gardens and light woodland. Plant sale. Home-made teas. Visit broughtongrange.com 10am. Adult £7; children free.

National Garden Scheme: Ashbrook House, Blewbury. The garden where Kenneth Grahame read *Wind in the Willows* to local children and where he took inspiration for his description of the oak doors to Badger's House. Home-made teas. 2pm. Adult: £4, children free.

Senior Specials and Cream Teas: Chinnor & Princes Risborough Railway, Station Approach, Station Road, Chinnor. All Seniors 60+ travel for only £5 for unlimited journeys on the day. Trains at 11am, 12.15pm, 1.30pm, 3pm and 4.30pm. Book cream teas which are served in the Afternoon Tea Car on the 1.30pm, 3pm and 4.30pm departures from Chinnor. 10am. Adult £11, senior £5, children £6. 07979 055366.

Storytelling Workshop: Braziers Park, Ipsden. Suitable for beginners and improvers. With Olivia Olsen. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. 10am. £60. 01491 680221.

Walk (Fieldpaths): Car Park, Village, Goring on Thames. SU599806 8 miles. A circular walk from Goring along the Thames Path to Whitchurch; returning through gently climbing Chiltern Hills. Bring refreshments and a picnic, possible pub at end of walk. Crossing the B471 twice. Assistance dogs only. 10am. 07443 528001.

To get an event of any kind listed here, enter the details into our easy-to-use online database at thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/events

Please add your event no later than ten days before the day of publication.

MONDAY

Make Lace Mondays: Vale & Downland Museum, 19 Church Street, Wantage. A chance to see how lace is made and have a go with a starter kit. All ages welcome but children must be accompanied by an adult. 1.30pm. Free. 01235 771447.

Music Monday: Vale & Downland Museum, 19 Church Street, Wantage. A fun session for under 5's. Join in with traditional songs and rhymes accompanied by live music. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Book in advance. 10am. Suggested £2 donation per family. 01235 771447.

TUESDAY

Scottish Country Dancing: Hanwell Fields Community Hall, Rotary Way, Banbury. Banbury and District Caledonian Society – open to all adults. 7.15pm. Annual subs £8 plus £2 per night attended. 07866 465533.

Ramblers walk: Pink & Lily PH, Parslows Hillock, near Princes Risborough. Leisurely flat four-mile walk with historical interest. Pub stop at the end. 10am. 07796 661449.

Square Dancing: Steventon Village Hall, The Green, Steventon. Square & Contra Dancing. No experience or partner needed. 7.30pm. £3 per evening. 01235 834778.

WEDNESDAY

CDFAS September Lecture: Warwick Hall, Church Green, Burford. A lecture on 'The Art of Piero della Francesco' by Shirley Smith. 11.30am. Non-members welcome (suggested donation £10).

Oxfordshire Railway Society: Seacourt Day Centre, Seacourt Road, Botley. 'A Pot Pourri In Six Decades On Gauges Large And Small' – an illustrated presentation by David Walker. Visitors welcome £3. 7:30pm. £3.

Paul Beaver's The Spitfire in Oxfordshire: Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Park Street, Woodstock. http://www.sofo.org.uk/product/the-spitfire-in-oxfordshire/. 6.45pm. £10. 01993 810210.

Ramblers walk: St Helen's Avenue, Benson. Six-mile walk along Thames Path to Wallingford, back via Shillingford, with a pub stop at the end. 10am. 01865 890005.

Viva Salsa Dance: Corn Exchange, Market Square, Witney. 7.30pm. £6. 07905 484077.

Walk (Fieldpaths): Car Park, Copredy Sports Club. SP472465 4.5 miles. Walking in the Cherwell Valley, through the scene of the Civil War Battle of Cropredy Bridge (June 1644), through Williamscot and returning along the Oxford Canal. Bring refreshments. Assistance dogs only. 10am. 01295 810771.

Music

THURSDAY

The Cellar, Frewin Court, Oxford: Flatlands, Slate Hearts, Who's Alice. Indie pop, grunge and alt-rock. 7.30pm. £5.

The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford: The Mighty Redox. All original psycho-eclectic rock. 9pm. Downstairs bar. Free.

Unicorn Theatre, Checker Walk, Abingdon: Jackie Oates and Megan Henwood. 7.15pm. £14.

FRIDAY

The Angel, Market Square, Witney: Glam Resurrection. Free. 9pm. 01993 703238.

The Beacon, Portway, Wantage: Cara Dillon. £20. 8pm. 01235 763456.

Warwick Hall, Church Green, Burford: Jim Mullen & Zoe Franci Trio. Jazz. £12 (£10 if booked ahead). 8pm. 07710 545555.

The Cellar, Frewin Court, Oxford: Banfi, Bryde, Semi Urban Fox. Pop-rock trio on UK tour. 7.30pm. £6 (adv).

The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford: Echo 4Four, Last Rites, Roy. Hard rock and heavy metal. 7pm. £7.

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Poizon, Black Bullets, Nasty High, Chasing Immortality. Poison tribute band plus local metal and hard rock bands. 9pm. £10.

O2 Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Road, Oxford: Roddy Woomble. Frontman from Idlewild. 6.30pm. £16.90.

SATURDAY

Brewery Tap, Ock Street, Abingdon: Johnny's Sexual Kitchen. Free. 9pm. 01235 521655.

Buscot Park Theatre, Buscot Park, Faringdon: Pavlova Wind Quintet. £16. 7.30pm. 01367244655.

Fox, Enstone Road, Middle Barton: C.Ody. Free. 9pm. 01869340338.

Highfield SC, George Street, Bicester: Marley Motown. Tribute to motown and reggae. 8.30pm. 01869 252876.

St Simon and St Jude Church, Church Road, Milton under Wychwood: Mila Piano Trio. Adults £12, under 16 £6. 7pm. 01993 831759.

The Victoria Arms Pub, Mill Lane, Oxford: Oxford Rabbit Hole Festival. Fourteen acts performing. £7.50 entrance, free for kids 10 or under. 12pm. 07752 753524.

The Windrush Club, 106 High Street, Witney: Nj aka Nichole Jenkinson. 9pm. 01993 702207.

Vale & Downland Museum, 19 Church Street, Wantage: Hills Angels. Free admission but donations welcome. 10.30am. 01235 771447.

Fat Lil's, 64a Corn Street, Witney: Syntronix. Eighties synthpop tribute. 8pm. £7.

The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford: Crystallite, Ash Adams. Local rockers. 7.30pm.

The Cellar, Frewin Court, Oxford: The Terrorsaurs, Who Killed Nancy Johnson?, Rebel Station. Proceeds to Crisis. 7.15pm. £5 (adv), £10 (otd).

SUNDAY

Oxford Wine Cafe, 36 South Parade, Summertown: Stuart Henderson Trio. Free. 6.30pm. 01865 236959.

The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford: Purple May, Richard Brotherton, dxisygeorge, Spoon Theory and Juniper Nights. 3.30-8.30pm. Free.

O2 Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Road, Oxford: The Psychedelic Furs, Lene Lovich Band. Post punk veterans. 7pm. £31.45.

MONDAY

Rose Revived, Newbridge, Witney: Alvin Roy's Reeds Unlimited. Jazz. 7.30pm. Free.

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Blues Caravan featuring Big Daddy Wilson. The Haven Club. Blues and soul. 8pm. £12 (adv), £15 (otd), £5 (NUS).

TUESDAY

New Theatre, 2 George Street, Oxford: Peace Train: The Cat Stevens Story. With Darren Coggan. 7.30pm. £31.65-£34.15.

The Old Fire Station, 40 George Street, Oxford: Zak-Jak. Oxford Improvisers presents Jack Wright, saxes, and Zachary Darrup, guitar and objects. 7.45pm. £9/£6.

WEDNESDAY

The Talkhouse, Wheatley Road, Stanton St John: Niamh McNally and the Tim Dawes Trio. Jazz. 8.30-11pm. Free. 01865 351654.

The Cellar, Frewin Court, Oxford: Fangclub. Irish garage rock trio.7.30pm. £7 (adv), £10 (otd)/Wed 13th Sep 17

New Theatre, 2 George Street, Oxford: Texas. Multi-million selling Scottish pop-rockers promoting new album. 7pm. £32.65-£54.65.

Theatre

Burton Taylor Studio, Beaumont Street, Oxford: Sep 7-8, *White Feather Boxer.* 7.30pm. £10. Sep 9, *Jack and the Beans Talk.* For ages three to seven. Various times. £8. Sep 11-16, The Tiger's Bride. 7.30pm. £10. 01865 305305.

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Sep 9, Michael Legge, Marlon Davis, Micky P Kerr and John Fothergill. Glee Comedy. 6.30pm. £15.95, £10 (student). 01865 810000.

The Old Fire Station, 40 George Street, Oxford: Sep 8, *The Dark Room.* Live-action text-based adventure game. The audience play as contestants. 8pm. £12/£10. 01865 263990.

Oxford Playhouse, Beaumont Street, Oxford: Until Sep 9, *Ruth Rendell's Judgement in Stone.* 7.30pm. £15-£37.50. Sep 11-12, *Stewart Lee – Content Provider.* 7.30pm. £25. 01865 305305.

Majliss Restaurant, Cowley Road: Oxford: Sep 12, *Chopping Chillies.* An epic, mystical tale of love, loss and soul-food. Playhouse Plays Out. 7pm. £20. 01865 305305.

New Theatre, George Street, Oxford: Sep 8-9, *Derren Brown – Underground.* 7.30pm. £29.65- 46.65 plus £2.85 transaction fee. Sep 14, *John Bishop – Winging It.* 8pm. £33.65 plus £2.85 transaction fee. 0844 871 3020.

The North Wall, South Parade, Summertown: Sep 11, Imtiaz Dharker. A literary evening with poet, artist and documentary film-maker. 7pm. £10-£14. 01865 319450.

Braziers Park, Ipsden: Sep 9, Once Upon a Time ... Come Listen to a Story. With storyteller Olivia Olsen. Suitable for all ages. 7.30pm. £5, includes cocoa and biscuits. Under 10s free. 01491 680221.

The Unicorn Theatre, Checker Walk, Abingdon-on-Thames: Sep 13-16, *When We Are Married.* By JB Priestley. BreakaLeg productions. 7.30pm. Weds and Thurs £8/Fri and Sat £10. 01235 821351.

The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park Road, Banbury: Sep 14, *Growth*. A comedy about growing up and manning up from critically acclaimed writer Luke Norris. 7.30pm. £14/£12. 01295 279002.

White Hart, 31 Newland Street, Eynsham: Sep 8, Attila the Stockbroker. Eynsham Labour Group present punk-poet. Visit wegottickets.com/event/410811 £10. 8pm.

CakeSport

banburycake.co.uk/sport

Puritans seal Cup progress

FOOTBALL

A SUPERB second-half display saw in-form Banbury United book their place in the second qualifying round of the Emirates FA Cup with a 4-2 win over Tiverton Town.

The Puritans, who have a 100 per cent record in the Evo-Stik South Premier, trailed 1-0.

But Jefferson Louis, Darren Pond, Ravi Shamsi and Conor McDonagh struck after the break.

In the draw, they were handed a home tie against Thatcham Town on Saturday, September 16.

Puritans keeper Jack Harding twice denied Levi Landricombe early on.

Banbury went close when Luke Carnell's header was cleared off the line. But Tiverton opened the scoring on the half-hour mark, when Landricombe fired in from 20 yards.

Louis equalised with a header on 64 minutes, before Pond struck through a crowded area to make it 2-1.

Shamsi added a third, collecting the ball on half-way, before firing home from the edge of the box.

Landricombe pulled a goal back, but McDonagh made the game safe, heading home a corner on 86 minutes.

Conor McDonagh wheels away after scoring Banbury's fourth goal against Tiverton Picture: Steve Wheeler

Sabin helps Banbury end on a high

CRICKET

LLOYD Sabin hit 99 as Banbury ended their Division 1 campaign with a 140-run home victory over Oxford.

The hosts elected to bat in the Home Counties Premier League match.

A second-wicket partnership of 128 between captain Sabin, whose knock came off 104 deliveries, and Olly Clarke (51), proved pivotal.

The skipper was eventually dismissed and from there on the hosts lost wickets regularly to post 251-6.

Oxford faced an uphill battle and collapsed to 21-4, before Richard West (4-11) ran through the tail.

BANBURY

L Sabin b Humphreys	99
C Haupt lbw Eltham	13
O Clarke c Simon b Eltham	51
R West c Tong-Jones b Humphreys	2
C Hill not out	38
J Wilkins run out	10
W Hawtin c Fallah b Mendis	1
O Wright not out	19
Extras	18
Total (6 wkts, 50 ovs)	251

Fall: 1-41, 2-169, 3-179, 4-179, 5-203, 6-221.

Bowling: Fallah 10-2-41-0, Musk 7-1-43-0, Eltham 10-1-37-2, Humphreys 10-1-29-2, Mendis 10-0-69-1, Simon 3-0-26-0.

OXFORD

O Tong-Jones lbw Cheema	0
H Eltham c Hawtin b Taylor	4
J Perkin c Hill b Taylor	2
M Ayub c Hawtin b Curtis	46
J Barrett c Sabin b Taylor	9
S Mendis c West b Wright	12
F Simon c Hill b West	9
A Muir not out	7
S Fallah lbw West	0
R Musk c Hawtin b West	0
C Humphreys c Haupt b West	6
Extras	16
Total (all out, 29.5 ovs)	111

Fall: 1-0, 2-7, 3-7, 4-21, 5-65, 6-90, 7-98, 8-98, 9-98.

Bowling: Cheema 6-0-29-1, Taylor 6-1-22-3, Wright 4-0-18-1, Hill 4-0-13-0, Curtis 5-1-12-1, West 4.5-0-11-4.

Banbury 20pts, Oxford 4

Bulls start with bonus-point win

RUGBY UNION

BANBURY made the perfect start with a well-deserved 36-18 victory over Witney at the DCS Stadium.

The enthusiasm of a new South West 1 East campaign may have got the better of Freddie Cracknell as he was sin-binned after 40 seconds for a dangerous tackle.

Being a man down did not affect Banbury, though, and an Ed Phillips penalty put them 3-0 in front.

Witney responded well and a George Lewis penalty levelled the contest.

Bulls enjoyed more territory and on 35 minutes Phillips darted over from five metres.

He converted his own try to make it 10-3.

Witney reduced the deficit on the brink of half-time, thanks to a Lewis penalty.

Three Phillips penalties put Bulls 19-6 ahead.

Witney hit back on 62 minutes when Jack Birks dived over and Henry Lamb converted.

But Banbury scored three tries in the final 12 minutes through Tommy Gray (2) and Cracknell.

Alex Foggett crossed in the last play for Witney, but Bulls had already won the game.

STARS with Claire Petulengro

Service provided by IMS Leeds LS1 8LB. Calls cost 60p per minute at all times

ARIES Mar 21-Apr 19
Those who let you down obviously don't have your best interests at heart. You may try to make excuses for them, but at the end of the day you know you need to move on, don't you Aries? Energy levels are down, but they can go up again if you can find the courage to be the best version of you. Saturn brings emotions to the fore tonight when you'll be tempted to make a phone call that will tell someone exactly how you feel. Ring now for clarity on love and relationships.
0906 585 4360

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20
Your ruling planet Venus, brings your demanding side to the fore. Just be careful that you are not asking for commitments you may not want later down the line. A temporary influence from the stars could see you mistaking a chapter for the whole book as far as a certain interaction is concerned. Ring now to hear why it's worth sticking to truths both today and tomorrow.
0906 585 4361

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20
Your imagination goes into overdrive and you may find yourself accusing your close ones of things they have not done just to see how far you can push them. Know how far is too far to go my friend, as certain signs in your life have already taken more than they should. Time spent with younger faces sheds much light on why they acted as they did. Ring now to make life sparkle.
0906 585 4362

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22
You begin to make better progress in the workplace than you have all year. This makes up especially for the lost time which August saw you having to endure in professional matters. Better times in the home are also waiting, that is if you can agree to meet a certain person halfway. Ring now to hear why it's beneficial to put more time and effort into contracts or any legal matters.
0906 585 4363

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22
Try not to make too many arrangements with too many people or you will only end up taking the fun out of what should be a really social time. Certain friends seem to think you 'belong' to them and it's time to put the record straight through actions not words. Fun times link to you going back to something you used to enjoy two years ago. Ring now to make life as amazing as it should be.
0906 585 4364

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22
Opportunities come your way to mix with more like-minded people. However, this may annoy other people you have been spending more time with. Take the gentle approach so you don't dent anyone's pride. Your element of earth helps you to find more common ground with a family member who has come through a major life event. Ring now to hear why I'm so proud of you.
0906 585 4365

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22
There was a time when you would have allowed yourself to be treated as second best, but that time has passed. Certain people will be in for a wake up call this week when you give them a few home truths. Be nice to Capricorns. They have the contacts you need to make that all important crossover in your work. Ring now to hear why it's worth paying back any money borrowed early.
0906 585 4366

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21
Are you really looking after yourself as well as you should or could Scorpio? Aspects suggest you are not. Take time out of your day today to make yourself a priority and to think about what is and isn't working for you. Just spending less time with the person who brings you down would be a great start my friend. Ring now to hear why you're going to soon need to check your passports in date.
0906 585 4367

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21
Work pressures are likely to be taking their toll on you and bit by bit you start to think of ways you can make your working hours more suited to your needs and desires. For some of you this could include changing careers or companies. Just know that your thinking is clear. Decisions you make now will be the right ones. Ring now to hear who you need to listen to more.
0906 585 4368

CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19
What you really want and what you think you want, seem to be two different things according to your stars. Don't be afraid to ask for (or insist) on more time to come to your decisions. Certain signs seem to think that by rushing you they can force your hand. This is both unfair and unacceptable. Wear what you know you look good in tonight. Ring now to hear how Jupiter helps you win in financial deals.
0906 585 4369

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18
You start to feel more like you and less like a pushover. This may have meant you had to distance yourself from, or even fall out with a close one, but it's sure to have had a positive effect on you. Contracts you need to fill can help take you closer to your dreams and can also ensure that you don't miss out on something you've long wanted to achieve. Ring now for life in full colour.
0906 585 4370

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 20
You are given a fresh sense of determination for projects which this time last week you were ready to give up on. This seems to have a lot to do with the fact that you now have support where before it was missing. Fun times link to someone you thought you would not see again but who is soon going to be a regular part of your life again. Ring now to put everything into perspective.
0906 585 4371

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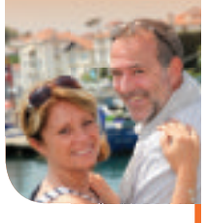

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PROPERTY

Agents describe this house in Launton Road, above and right, as having 'considerable potential'

Improvers get active with add-ons and DIY

Gill Oliver
gill.oliver@nqo.com

HOMEOWNERS in Cherwell are fairly keen on doing up their properties.

The number of householder development planning applications in the area rose by eight per cent between 2015 and 2017.

A similar number were approved in West Oxfordshire.

Oxford emerged as the county's hotspot for renovation, with the number of applications jumping by 17 per cent.

This contrasts sharply with South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse, where they seem to have gone off DIY.

Applications fell by two per cent in South Oxfordshire and were down by a half-a-per cent in Vale of White Horse between 2015 and 2017.

The statistics include renovations which need planning permission, such as extensions, conservatories, loft conversions and dormer windows.

Others are garages, carports, outbuildings, swimming pools, walls, fences, granny annexes, porches and satellite dishes.

The research was commissioned by home improvement site Plentific, which connects homeowners with tradespeople.

It used annual planning application statistics from October 2014 to September 2015 and October 2016 to the present day.

Plentific spokesman Stephen Jury said: "Many homeowners now look at a large garden, garage, or loft as an opportunity to renovate, with the majority thinking of it as an investment in the future value of a property."

A 1960s family home that is set on a large plot in Launton Road, Bicester, is described by agents as having 'considerable potential'.

There is plenty of room at the back to extend, subject to planning permission.

It has two reception rooms, plus a kitchen on the ground floor, three double bedrooms, parking and a garage.

Number 27 Launton Road is on the market at £375,000.

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Broughton Road

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£500 pcm

Bretch Hill

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Church Lane

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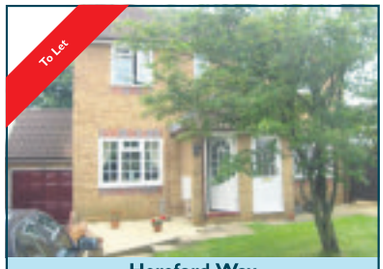
£1150 pcm



Hereford Way

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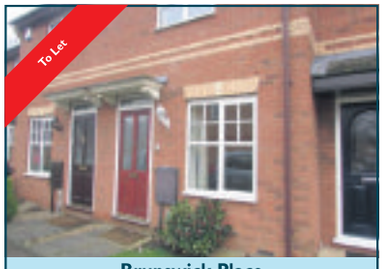
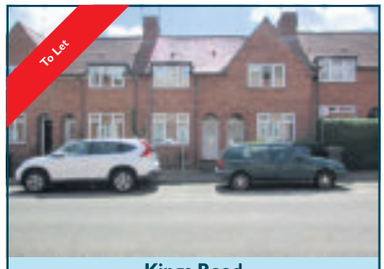


Brunswick Place

A two bedroom house unfurnished house. Good size kitchen with integrated oven. Living room with wood laminate flooring. Master bedroom with built in wardrobe. Second small double / large single bedroom. Walking distance to the town centre and train station.

£825 pcm



Kings Road

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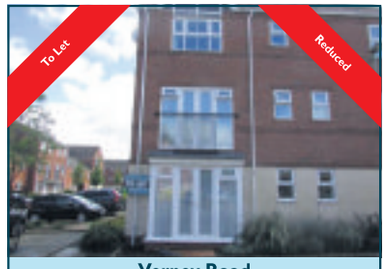

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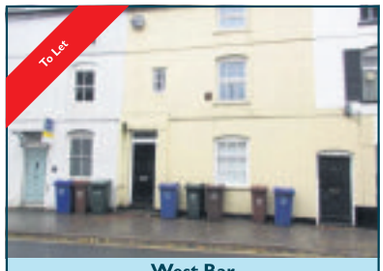

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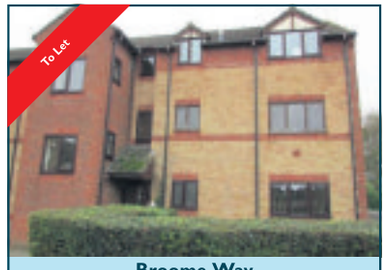

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Martin & Co are pleased to present this new to the market one bedroom apartment with allocated parking. Ideal for a single professional or couple.

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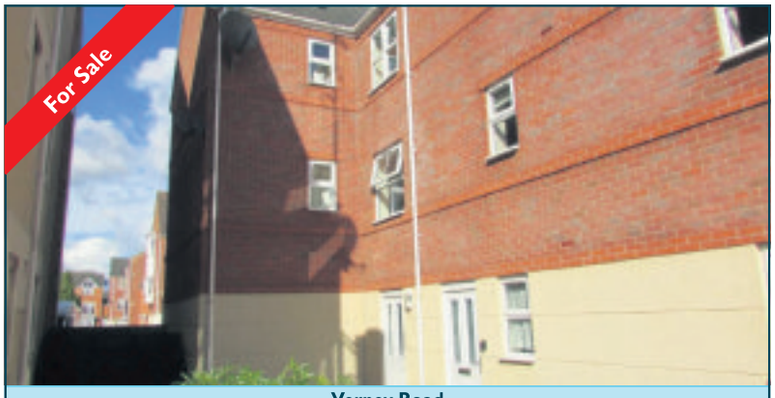

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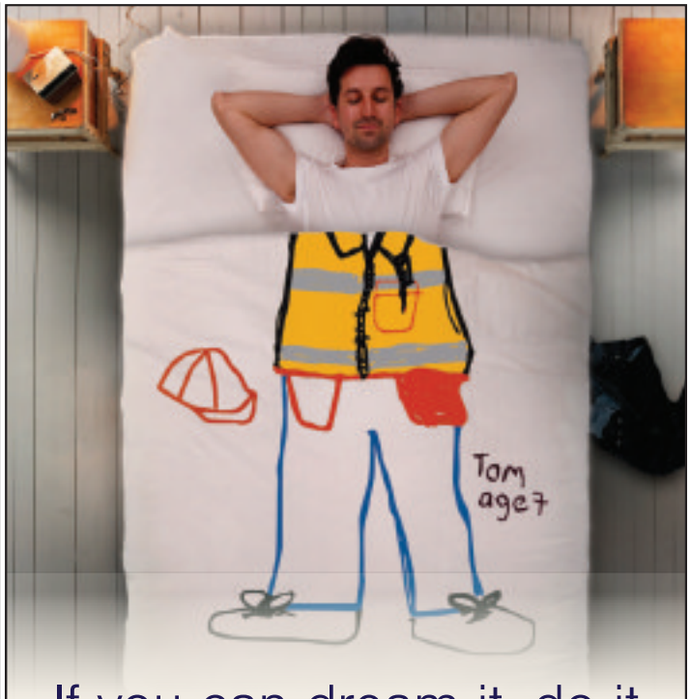

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Used Car Road Test

by Jonathan Crouch

Small but perfectly formed Yaris

TOYOTA YARIS (2014-2017)
MODELS COVERED:
3dr/5dr (1.0, 1.33, 1.5 Hybrid / 1.4 D-4D diesel)

Introduction

Toyota couldn't afford for their third generation Yaris to be an also-ran in the supermini segment. So in 2014, they fundamentally revised it, with smarter looks, extra equipment and much greater refinement and efficiency. The idea was to broaden this model's appeal, seek a younger audience and convince buyers that when it comes to comfort, quality and a little bit of spirit in this sector, the Yaris could fit the bill. Let's check this car out as a used buy.

The History

These days, a supermini must be more than sensible, practical, well-built and efficient. Buyers now take those sorts of things for granted and look instead for fashion, flair, innovation and technology. Back in 2014, Toyota hoped they'd be looking for something like this, the much improved version of their third generation Yaris.

The original version of this model launched in 2011 was a good car, but there simply weren't enough reasons to buy mainstream versions when rivals offered more striking looks, more engaging design and a more dynamic driving experience. That was a problem, given this Yaris' importance in accounting for over a quarter of all the company's total European sales. Toyota, the first Japanese brand to produce a supermini specifically designed for European buyers, had allowed itself to lose sight of what those buyers really wanted.

So heads rolled, tables were thumped and full responsibility for immediate remedial action taken away from Japan and passed to the maker's Product Development team in Brussels and Design Studio near Nice. The resulting facelift took an almost unprecedented level of effort, with over £70 million invested, around 1,000 new parts re-engineered and 576,000 man hours spent in developing this updated model, launched in the Summer of 2014.

The resulting sharper-looking MK3 design claimed to offer everything the trendiest small car seeker could want, from Google mapping to hybrid power. At the same time, aware that traditional older buyers might not want to Facebook their friends on the way to eat designer sushi, Toyota also prioritised their needs in making this car feel plusher, quieter and better built. Some things didn't change of course. This remained one of the largest, most practical choices buyers of the time could make in the supermini segment and a range of engine updates also made it one of the more efficient options too.

This car sold until the Spring of 2017, when it was replaced by another facelifted model featuring a new 1.5-litre engine.

What To Look For

With our ownership survey, we found plenty of satisfied Yaris owners, but inevitably, there were a few issues. A rattling dash was reported by one owner. We also came across issues with creaking suspension and a clunking gearbox, while in one case, the centre console went blank occasionally. One owner had the misfortune to suffer a blown turbo on his 1.4 D-4D diesel model after 30,000 miles. And it's been reported that the 1.0-litre petrol engine occasionally suffers problems pulling from, low revs. Look out for all these things on the test drive and, as usual, prioritise models featuring a fully stamped-up service record.

On The Road

With most facelifts, the driving dynamics are left well alone. Not here. With customers of earlier versions of this third generation model criticising refinement and handling response, Toyota acted decisively with this 2014 MK3 model facelift, stiffening the body, fitting revised torsion beam rear suspension, improving steering response, changing the springs and dampers for better body control, adding better soundproofing material and altering the aerodynamics to reduce wind noise.

So, does it all work? Well, it depends upon your expectations. Though the ride was improved, it still gets unsettled over rougher surfaces. And though the steering is a touch more feelsome than is the case with earlier MK3 models, it's still very light and better suited to metropolis rather than motorway use. Which is one of the main reasons why this car remains one of those you'd buy primarily to shoot to the shops and take on the odd motorway trip to the mother-in-law, rather than to speed around Silverstone. That's why there are no hard core hot hatch versions, no performance fireworks and little for the enthusiast to get too excited about when it comes to pin-sharp response at the wheel.

For this model's target market though, the good news is of far greater importance. Namely that the improvements made to refinement really were effective – to the point where this is one of the quietest superminis from this era it's possible to buy. The more rigid body certainly helps here but overall, the success is down to a whole range of detail changes – everything from a clever spoiler-shaped cowl at the base of the acoustic windscreen to redesigned door weather strips that improved sealing. The result is that if you are one of those supermini buyers likely to occasionally use your car to venture further afield, you'll find this particular Yaris a far pleasanter travelling companion than almost any other model from this era in this segment.

Overall

The facelift applied to this MK3 model Yaris in 2014 certainly gave the car a fresh lease of life. Of course, no matter how far you tweak the trimmings, it's hard to change any car's fundamental DNA and sure enough, under the trendier packaging, this supermini remained the smartly conservative choice it always was.

So, how to sum up? Well, there are doubtless more engaging chapters in the Yaris story still to be written, but what's important is that the updates made to this 2014-2017-era car put this third generation version back on track. Which makes it a decent used buy.

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Sales Opening Hours
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Mokka X 1.6 Active RRP £17,895 - Customer Deposit £243 – Eden Vauxhall deposit contribution £2400 - Total amount of credit £15,252 – 47 monthly payments of £243 – Optional final payment £5,543 – 4.2% APR Representative on Personal Contract Plan - Total amount payable £19,607 based on 5,000 miles contract duration (other mileages available). Astra 1.4 SRi RRP £16,995 - Customer Deposit £224 – Eden Vauxhall deposit contribution £2000 - Total amount of credit £14,771 – 47 monthly payments of £224 – Optional final payment £5,946 – 4.2% APR Representative on Personal Contract Plan - Total amount payable £18,698 based on 5,000 miles contract duration (other mileages available). Corsa 1.4 Energy RRP £11,795 - Customer Deposit £162 – Eden Vauxhall deposit contribution £1800 - Total amount of credit £9,833 – 47 monthly payments of £162 – Optional final payment £3,604 – 5.3% APR Representative on Personal Contract Plan - Total amount payable £13,180 based on 5,000 miles contract duration (other mileages available). Viva SE RRP £10,635 – Now £9,089 – Save £1,846– Customer deposit £119 – Total amount of credit £7,820 – 49 monthly payments of £99 – Optional final payment £2,969 – 0% APR – total amount payable £7,919 based on 6,000 miles contract duration (other mileages available). *Scrappage allowance is regardless of age, condition or mileage however, it must be driveable and in your ownership for at least 6 months – this offer is available on selected vehicles only and subject to Eden Vauxhall availability. The minimum part exchange scrappage allowance is as part of a Vauxhall finance agreement and supersedes any other offers that may coincide. Finance subject to status. Terms & Conditions apply. 18's and over. Guarantee may be required. We are a credit broker not a lender for these financial promotions. We can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers and may receive a commission from them for the introduction. Excess mileage will be charged on the above vehicles, other mileages are available. Images used for illustration purposes only, specifications may vary. For further details please contact your local Eden Vauxhall branch. Offer ends 30th September 2017.

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PX TO CLEAR

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